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For Immediate Release:

Newark Public Library Announces Vote

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Newark, NY – Today, the Newark Public Library has announced that residents in the Newark Central School District will vote on a 8-cent tax increase per \$1,000 in assessed property value proposal to the Library’s yearly tax funding. The public referendum will take place in the general election on Tuesday, May 16, 2016, from 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM at the Newark High School, 625 Peirson Ave.

The proposal amounts to an estimated \$92 per \$100,000 of assessed value on properties across the Newark Central School District (an increase of \$8.40). For the average home, assessed at \$84,000, the tax increase to support the Library would be \$7.06 a year.

The Newark community relied heavily on the Library throughout 2016, with 99,153 visitors, 92,701 items circulated, and total program attendance of 7,268.

If the proposed funding is approved, benefits to the community include:

- Maintaining open hours of 56 hours per week with no disruptions to the current level of computer and internet access, tutoring, and meeting room space availability
- Purchasing new books and other borrowable materials to meet demand
- Continuing programs for children, including story times, *1000 Books Before Kindergarten*, and the Summer Reading Program.
- Offering a tool library, one-on-one computer and technology training, advice, and support
- Continuing community outreach, including providing onsite services at senior living facilities, adult craft programs, and school visits.

If the referendum is not approved, the Newark Public Library will need to make difficult decisions about programs, services, and materials, such as:

- Cutting back hours of operation to 46 hours per week
- Reducing programming for children, seniors, and those in need of technology assistance
- Eliminating staff positions
- Decreasing materials budget resulting in a reduction in books, DVDs, and other new materials

“We are committed to ensuring that residents continue to enjoy all of the educational, cultural, and social benefits that go along with having a library that meets the needs of the community,” said Shawn McConnell, Library Director. “But the reality is that reductions in other income sources and rises in fixed costs would force us to scale back our programs, collections, operating hours, core services, and staff unless we receive the proposed funding. We believe proceeding with the proposed 8-cent tax increase per \$1,000 in assessed value is the right decision, and it comes after significant study of the needs of our community and deliberation about possible other alternatives.”

The Newark Public Library is offering an information meeting and a budget hearing so residents can learn more about the proposal and ask questions. The schedule for the meetings is:

- Saturday, April 29, 1 -2 P.M. at the Newark Public Library, 121 High St., Newark, NY in the Community Room
- Thursday, May 4th, 6:30 – 7:30 P.M. at the Newark Public Library, 121 High St., Newark, NY in the Community Room

News and information about the library tax vote is available online at www.newarklibrary.org/vote, which will be updated throughout the election. People with questions can also contact Shawn McConnell, Library Director at 315-331-4370 or smcconnell@newarklibrary.org.

All residents of the Newark Central School District are eligible to vote. Absentee ballots will be available until May 9 and can be obtained from the Newark Central School District office.

About Newark Public Library

The mission of the Newark Public Library (NPL) is to provide equal access to information and knowledge so that people of all ages may seek education, social and cultural growth. Since 1897 the Newark Public Library has sought to educate, inform, enrich and entertain the citizens of the Newark Community. The library is located at 121 High Street in Newark, NY, the phone number is 315-331-4370 and the website can be found at www.newarklibrary.org.